

Town of Brentwood
Budget Committee
Minutes of January 18, 2016

Meeting: Regular Budget committee meeting held at the Brentwood Town Office

Present: Krista Steger, Chairperson, Melissa Hanlon, Keith Levitsky, Bill Faria, Malcolm Allison, Elyse Gallo, Amy Mitchell

Visitors: Michelle Suidut

Chairperson Krista Steger called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Coop School Business

Krista handed out the current Brentwood valuation, \$560,201,160, and noted that this year the average home valuation is now considered at 350K rather than 300K as in the past. The proposed Coop school budget was discussed. Elyse noted that the Brentwood tax impact of Coop proposed budget and all warrant articles would be + \$0.756 per thousand (default budget \$0.702), with 62 cents of this resulting from the expansion trust fund. This amounts to \$246 increase on a 350K valuation. Members were encouraged to attend the deliberative session at EHS on Feb 4 at 7pm, with enough Brentwood citizens to change this budget.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2016 Minutes: There were numerous changes to the draft minutes by several members. It was suggested to wait for the revised wording and possibly approve the revised minutes at the next Budcomm meeting January 25, 2016. Motion to table pending the revision Melissa/Elyse, carried 7-0.

Correspondence

None

Selectman's Update

None

Swasey School Update

Krista suggested that the School Board put an article in the Brentwood newsletter regarding the proposed school budget and full day kindergarten. Closing date is usually 20 or 21 of the month, but an extension could be requested if the editor knows there will be an article. Budcomm will have an article. Discussion followed.

Krista stated that all the Budcomm members liked the budget in binder form but requested that next year the School board should prepare the proposed budget to be given to the Budcomm in

mid-December to allow more time for the members to consider the new budget before it is presented by the school board Budcomm representative.

Malcolm asked for clarification of the budget numbers as he had difficulty resolving them. It was pointed out that the different sets of number in section 1 and section 2 of the binder are not supposed to correlate since section 1 shows just the changes. The numbers in section 2 are the proposed budget.

Elyse asked about the percentage increases due to full day kindergarten since they are 5.2, not 4.95. She stated that in her opinion the operating budget should be separate from the full day Kindergarten budget, that way the voting citizens will see a reduction in the operating budget and would have a positive frame of mind when the addition of full day kindergarten is proposed. The full day kindergarten budget would be more likely to pass. Discussion followed.

Krista stated that there is one more school board meeting on Feb 1 and that the school board may want to consider changing their budget strategy.

Town Operating Budget

There were 3 budgets re-opened by the selectman and changed for us to reconsider, primarily due to health insurance choices.

Town Clerk, 4140

Motion to reopen Keith/Amy, carried 7-0

Motion to approve \$73,942, a \$3792 increase over what the budget committee previously approved due to changes in health care, Keith/Melissa, carried 7-0

Tax Collector, 4150

Motion to reopen Melissa/Keith carried 7-0

Motion to approve \$72,742, a \$3792 increase what the budget committee previously approved due to changes in health care, Keith/Melissa, carried 7-0

Public Works, 4312

Motion to reopen Melissa/Keith carried 7-0

Motion to approve \$432,800, a \$13,867 decrease from what the budget committee previously approved due to changes in health care, Mal/Keith, carried 7-0

Entire Town Budget

Motion to approve \$3, 283,692, which represents a 3% increase over the 2015 operating budget, Mal/Keith, carried 7-0

Elyse stated that this was a \$.17 increase in the tax rate

Warrant Articles

There are ten warrant articles:

Capital reserve fund for assessments

A \$25K per year fund to offset the cost of assessments gradually rather than pay it one large sum in the year it is due. Discussion followed. Impact is \$.045 per thousand. Motion to approve Mal/Bill, carried 7-0.

Appropriate \$1000 to fund CASA,

Discussion followed

Motion to approve Mal/Bill, carried 7-0

Appropriate \$1000 to fund New Heights

Discussion followed

Motion to approve Mal/Keith. Carried 7-0

Addition of \$25K to the Capital reserve fund for maintenance of town owned buildings

In order to replace the town office roof. Discussion followed.

Bill noted that Solar panels may be considered after the roof is replaced.

Motion to approve Mal/Bill, carried 6-1.

Establish a Capital reserve fund to acquire new software for assessing, tax, and/or accounting, and to appropriate \$20K for this purpose.

Discussion followed.

Motion to table in order to collect more information Elyse/Melissa carried 6-1

Addition of \$20K to be added to the existing Capital reserve fund for the repair of town bridges.

Discussion followed.

Motion to approve Bill/Elyse carried 6-1

Appropriate \$350K for road repair

An increase of 100K, discussion followed regarding Bell and Flynn

Motion to approve Mal/Bill carried 7-0

Addition of \$50K to be added to the capital reserve for the purchase of highway vehicles and related equipment.

A large truck must be replaced for \$140K. Discussion followed.

Motion to approve Elyse/Bill carried 7-0

Appropriate \$18,524 for fourth year backhoe lease payment

Addition of \$50K to the existing Capital reserve fund for the construction of new highway building. Discussion followed

Motion to approve both of the above Elyse/Keith 7-0

Appropriate \$27,533 for the purchase of a police cruiser and related equipment.

To replace the existing Dodge Charger which has excessive repairs. Discussion followed
Motion to approve Mal/Melissa 7-0

Krista will summarize the warrant articles and the tax impact for next week .

Other Business

Krista stated that the Feb 8 meeting will start at 6:30pm and public hearing will be at 7pm.
Next regular Budcomm meeting will be on January 25, 2016.

Keith asked in view of recent area events, can the Budcomm go into nonpublic meetings to discuss items such as safety and building security and the like. Krista asked Melissa to investigate this and report at next Budcomm meeting. Discussion followed.
Bill stated that the addition of solar panels will most likely be discussed at the selectmen or the town meeting. A large bond maybe involved. Discussion followed.

Krista noted that there are two Budcomm positions up to be filled this year.

Visitor Comments

None

Motion to adjourn 9:02 pm Elyse/Keith, carried 7-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Malcolm Allison